relate to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus in the State of Bihar (3), Haryana (17), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra (13), Punjab (17), Tamil Nadu (1), Uttaranchal (2) and Delhi (4). Recently a number of sting operations were carried out by various television channels in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC) has been continuously monitoring the action taken report on the same. The States have filed Court cases/FIRs against the doctors in the cases.

In the State of Punjab, registration of a doctor has been suspended for five years by State Medical Council of Punjab. In Haryana, a doctor & his assistant in the district of Palwal were sentenced for simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- each under PC & PNDT Act. In Delhi, two doctors were sent to jail for 24 hours after search/ seizure of their machine was done by District Appropriate Authority.

National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) constituting representatives from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development, NGOs and Central Supervisory Board Members at the Centre takes stock of the ground realities by field visits to the States. The report is sent to the Chief Secretary of the State for taking action on the same. The States have also been requested to constitute State Inspection and Monitoring Committee (SIMC). The Government of Gujarat has already constituted it and the State of Delhi is in the process of constituting it.

Banning of advertisements on Colas

2037. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had initiated discussions with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to frame guidelines for banning soft drinks advertisements, especially in the electronic media;

(b) whether at present Coca-Cola and Pepsi spend about 150 crores a year on television commercials and the figure will be higher if print advertisements and sponsorships are taken into account;

(c) whether Government are considering to regulate the advertisements of soft drinks in the country and add also a few more harmful products; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, at present there is not such proposal under consideration.

(b) The budgetary allocation for advertisements of soft drink manufacturers does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.

(c) and (d) Under PFA Act 1954, at present there is no such proposal under consideration. However, Rule 43A of PFA Rules, 1955 provides that there shall be no advertisement of any food which is misleading or contravening the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have informed that all advertisements have to follow provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Netwoks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Shortage of staff in medical colleges

2038. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of teaching staff in medical colleges of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of teaching staff seats which are vacant since the last two years; and

(c) what are the main reasons behind this and the action Government have taken to fill the vacant seats in medical colleges of Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per inspections carried out by Medical Council of India (MCI) during 2006-07, there is shortage of teaching staff in the following medical colleges in Maharashtra.